

Historic Spruce Needle Rust Outbreak Information – Alaska Region

From USFS Forest Health Protection Conditions reports (1969-2001). For more information, see the Alaska Forest Health Protection homepage: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/r10/forest-grasslandhealth>

YEAR	DESCRIPTION OF SPRUCE NEEDLE RUST (SNR) ACTIVITY
1969	No SNR activity mentioned in the report, indicating limited disease.
1970	
1971	Significant widespread damage throughout much of Southeast Alaska.
1972	Localized damage at widely scattered locations in Southeast Alaska and the Kenai Peninsula.
1973	Moderate infection noted in the Mendenhall Valley near Juneau and scattered infected trees noted around Petersburg and Ketchikan.
1974	No SNR activity mentioned in the report, indicating limited disease.
1975	Low levels of disease noted.
1976	Incidence low in Southeast Alaska with the exception of the Mendenhall Valley near Juneau. No mention of other locations in Alaska.
1977	No SNR activity mentioned in the report, indicating limited disease.
1978	A significant year for SNR, with severe disease mapped by aerial survey (309,400 ha, 764,500 ac). Damage mapped on the upper Porcupine River between the Canadian border and the Colleen River, northwest and east of Ruby, northwest of Lake Chauekuktuli (Taylor Mountains Quad), north of Dillingham, and near the Russian River on the Kenai Peninsula.
1979	A significant year for SNR. On the Kenai Peninsula, 16,350 ha (40,400 ac) of SNR damage was detected with up to 90% of new needles affected on individual trees. The largest area of infection occurred between Clam Gulch and the village of Ninilchik. Disease was also prevalent throughout SW Alaska from King Salmon to the Lake Clark Region.
1980	A large increase in SNR activity compared to 1979; little of the activity could be mapped due to time constraints but the outbreak extent estimated at 100,000 ha (247,000 ac). The largest outbreak area occurred from Clam Gulch to south of Anchor Point, and also in SW Alaska: Dillingham, King Salmon, Lake Clark, the Seward Peninsula, and along Kuskokwim River between Bethel and Stony River.
1981	Limited SNR damage with the exception of a severe outbreak along the south side of the Tanana River between Birch and Harding Lakes.
1982	High incidence of SNR was reported at Kennel Creek, Trap Bay, Throne Bay (likely a typo: Thorne Bay), Lake Eva, Petersburg and Juneau.
1983	Heavy SNR activity was observed 1 km south of Kaltag, 12 km east of Crooked Creek, and east of Walker Lake in Interior Alaska.
1984	SNR disease activity increased in the Interior compared to 1983, but no specific location information provided.
1985	SNR was abundant throughout Southeast Alaska, but no specific location information was provided. Most damage observed in and around muskegs with Labrador-tea (the alternate host). Disease aurally detected near Delta Junction and on the Kenai Peninsula.
1986	No pronounced SNR activity or specific locations mentioned in the report.
1987	Several thousand acres of SNR damage aurally detected in the King Salmon area on the Alaska Peninsula "this area appears to be susceptible to shore-term flare-ups".
1988	No pronounced SNR activity or specific locations mentioned in the report.

1989	SNR common in Southeast Alaska, no specific locations mentioned in the report.
1990	SNR damage was common in Southeast Alaska and aerially mapped on 16,583 ac (6,700 ha) in Interior Alaska, most prevalent along the southern portion of the Yukon River near Anvik, and from Moose Pass to Seward on the Kenai Peninsula.
1991	High SNR disease levels reported in Southeast Alaska, the Kenai Peninsula, and Southwest Alaska, particularly in Juneau and Dillingham.
1992	Low to moderate levels of SNR damage observed after several years of outbreaks. The Dillingham outbreak had subsided, aerially mapped on 390 ac (158 ha).
1993	Moderate and high SNR disease levels observed on poorly drained sites (with Labrador-tea, the alternate host) in Southeast Alaska near Petersburg, Juneau, and other areas.
1994	Moderate and high SNR disease levels observed on poorly drained sites near Petersburg, Juneau, and other areas in Southeast Alaska. Limited SNR in Interior and Southcentral Alaska.
1995	Moderate and high SNR disease levels in Southeast Alaska, with notable outbreaks of 2,800 ac (1,133 ha) at Logan Beach and Mountain Lake on the large peninsula by Russell Fjord near Yakutat. Scattered pockets of SNR also mapped on the Kenai Peninsula.
1996	An outbreak of over 2,700ac (1,090 ha) was visible and aerially mapped from Soldotna to Homer on the Kenai Peninsula.
1997	Moderate SNR disease levels, with the primary outbreak (10,000 ac, 4050 ha) observed on poorly drained sites in the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge.
1998	Moderate SNR disease levels, with small outbreaks observed in white spruce across Interior Alaska.
1999	Moderate SNR disease levels in Southcentral and Interior Alaska, with an extensive but unmeasured/unmapped outbreaks observed on the west side of Cook Inlet near the Chilikadrotna River. In Southeast Alaska, damage was common and severe, with up to 100% of current year needles affected in some areas.
2000	High SNR disease levels in Southeast Alaska, no location information provided in the report.
2001	A large outbreak was aerially mapped on 10,000 ac (4,050 ha) between Yakutat Bay and Icy Bay along the Gulf of Alaska.

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